

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
ALLEN MCNEILL FOR EXCEP-  
TIONAL SERVICE AND LEADER-  
SHIP

## HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor State Representative Allen McNeill for approximately 45 years of service to the people of Randolph and Moore County. A beloved member of our community, Representative McNeill has exhibited the highest level of commitment to protecting and serving others.

Prior to serving in the North Carolina House of Representatives, Representative McNeill worked for the Randolph County Sheriff's Office for approximately 30 years. His position with the office provided him with essential experience in law enforcement and public safety that has been integral to his accomplishments in the North Carolina House of Representatives. In 2012, Representative McNeill was first elected to the District 78 seat representing segments of Randolph and Moore County. He has represented this seat to this day and currently serves as the chair of the Justice and Public Safety Appropriations Committee as well as the vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and Judiciary 2 Committee. He is also a member of numerous other committees, including but not limited to the Election Law and Campaign Finance Committee and the Transportation Committee. As representative, his legislative initiative has affected essential funding for local government and institutional actors to ensure that his constituency is equipped with quality security and public safety measures. Perhaps most notably, his negotiations achieved indispensable funding that allowed Randolph Health to remain open and continue providing healthcare services for our community.

Representative McNeill will retire after his term expires at the end of the year. Through his outstanding service and leadership in the law enforcement and the North Carolina House of Representatives, he has set an exemplary standard for others in public service to emulate. I know I speak for all in our community in wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring State Representative Allen McNeill for his career of commendable servitude to his community.

HONORING DELLIE C. ROBINSON

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and

self-motivated leader, Dellie C. Robinson. Dellie C. Robinson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Robinson, the longtime Vicksburg High School (VHS) boys' basketball coach, led the Gators to the 2003 MHSAA Class 5A Championship, and to the state championship game in 2011 and 2014, during a 25-year run.

Robinson won nearly 800 games in almost 30 years as a coach at VHS and Canton High School. He was at VHS from 1992 to 2017 and won more than 400 games there.

Robinson was known as one of the best basketball coaches in Mississippi, and he was inducted into the 2022 Vicksburg Warren School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dellie C. Robinson for his passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren School District.

IN MEMORY OF DEBRA WALKER

## HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I rise in memory of Debra Walker, Detroit resident and community activist, whose bright light will live on in our hearts.

Debra was a remarkable and devoted resident of Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. She got her start in community organizing while she served as an Americorps volunteer following her retirement from a career in the automotive industry. Debra's service had no bounds, and she was a friend to many and a dedicated volunteer to countless organizations. Her commitments were deeply rooted in our community with Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium, Corktown Business Association, Corktown Experience, Alternatives for Girls, and People's Community Services, to name a few. She was especially proud of the organizations she founded, Black CAT, whose work focused on social justice issues and Women Achieving Victory and Esteem (WAVE), a support group for African American breast cancer patients and their families.

In addition to her work in the community, Debra was also an entrepreneur, artist, crafter, poet, and spoken word performer. She was passionate about the arts, which led her to found Power in Poetry Experience of Detroit, which created a platform for performing artists across Detroit. The community will always fondly remember Ladel's, the children's bookstore that Debra owned and ran. The store's selections, stories that exposed children to diverse cultures and representation of communities like their own, were truly reflective of the community Debra wanted to create. She truly embodied the generosity and warm-heartedness of Detroit.

Please join me in honoring the memory of Debra Walker as our community mourns her loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on November 30, 2022 due to bad weather. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 486, YEA on Roll Call No. 487, and NAY on Roll Call No. 488.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE PAT  
HURLEY FOR EXCEPTIONAL  
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

## HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina State Representative Pat Hurley for her 16 years of service to the people of Randolph County. A beloved member of our community, Representative Hurley has gone above and beyond to enact positive change for all in her community.

Since the beginning of her first term in 2007, Representative Hurley has worked diligently to become a conservative leader in the General Assembly. She currently holds leadership roles on many committees, including her role as chairwoman of the Appropriations and Education Committee. In addition to her educational priorities, Representative Hurley has long stood as a stalwart voice against legislation that would further enable or permit the use of alcohol, drugs, and gambling. As one of only 8 women in the 120-member North Carolina House of Representatives, she has exhibited outstanding initiative and courage that will help pave the way for increased female membership and leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly in years to come.

As a representative, she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to her community through her hard work and leadership. She has served as a trailblazer for all women in public service, and I know I speak for many others as we honor her extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Representative Pat Hurley for her exemplary service to her community.

HONORING EMMANUEL FORBES,  
JR.

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable leader, Emmanuel Forbes, Jr.

Emmanuel Forbes, Jr. is a native from Grenada, MS. He is also a 2020 graduate of Grenada High School. Emmanuel was a dominant

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

football player while in high school. After graduation, Emmanuel committed to Mississippi State University (MSU), where he is a member of the MSU Bulldogs football team. Emmanuel Forbes, Jr., who is a defensive back, has made himself into one of the top players at his position. He has caught the eyes of NFL scouts and ESPN draft experts. Mel Kiper, who is the head coach of the MSU Bulldogs football team, has Emmanuel projected to be taken in the middle of the second round in the 2023 NFL Draft, if he were to declare to go pro after the football season.

Emmanuel is a semifinalist for both the Chuck Bednarik Award, which is awarded to the nation's top defensive player, and the Jim Thorpe Award, which is awarded to the nation's top defensive back. If Emmanuel makes the finalist list, he will travel to Orlando, FL, for the awards ceremony, which will be televised on ESPN on December 3, 2022.

Emmanuel led the Bulldogs with 5 interceptions through 10 games, which is tied for second-most in the nation and ranks second in MSU single-season history. Emmanuel has 13 career interceptions, which leads the nation since 2020, and is the most active among SEC players. Emmanuel set the MSU and Armed Forces Bowl record with a 90-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Emmanuel Forbes, Jr. for his dedication, passion for leadership, and desire to be an example for all.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. TOMMY STALNAKER

#### HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of my good friend, Chairman Tommy Stalnaker, who is retiring after 50 years of service to Houston County, Georgia.

Mr. Stalnaker began his public service in 1972 and worked in various local government positions for 38 years until he was elected as chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners in 2010. Mr. Stalnaker started serving as Houston County's Chief Elected Official the following year and served three consecutive terms as chairman for 12 years.

During his tenure, Mr. Stalnaker was a champion for developing Houston County into the thriving community it is today and supporting the mission at Robins Air Force Base. While in office, he served on the Governing Council of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.

Mr. Stalnaker worked for and with 30 Houston County Commissioners during his extensive career and is proud to see Houston County in positive financial standing with no debt.

I am honored to have the privilege of representing outstanding Georgians and servant leaders like Chairman Stalnaker. I thank him for his many years of service to our community, and I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER OTIS RITTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Otis Ritter for nearly 10 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to serving on the Moore County Board of Commission, Commissioner Ritter served in the Navy and worked as a volunteer fireman for the Robbins and High Falls rescue squads. He also served 20 years as the chairman of the county's Emergency Services Advisory Committee. After being appointed to the Board of Commissioners to replace Commissioner Craig Kennedy in 2013, Commissioner Ritter was elected to hold the District III seat in 2014 and 2018. Given his experience as a first responder, he now serves as a member of the Fire Commission which recently replaced the Emergency Services Advisory Committee. He also currently serves as a member of Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, and numerous other committees. Perhaps most impressively, Commissioner Ritter also previously served as vice chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Today, Commissioner Ritter is the longest serving member of the current Board of Commissioners. He will retire from his seat at the end of this year. Over the course of his career, he has extended the highest level of personal sacrifice in dedicating himself to the service of others. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking him for his hard work and wishing him well as he enters the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Otis Ritter for his career of exemplary servitude to his community.

#### HONORING SAMUEL L. WASHINGTON

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Samuel "Sam" Washington. Sam has had a fascination for aviation since he was young and had his sights set on the skies.

Sam grew up on a farm northwest of Yazoo City, MS. After being educated in the Humphreys County School System in Belzoni, he attended Mississippi Valley State University for two years before finishing his degree in management at Delta State University in 1986. After college, he spent a brief tour with the U.S. Air Force. After he persevered and pursued education, this prepared him for his current job as Director of the Greenville Mid-Delta Airport. In 2003, Sam took a job as director of purchasing at DSU. While there, he took the opportunity of free tuition for employees to earn two master's degrees, one in business

and the other in commercial aviation. In 2010, he left to open his own consulting firm.

Sam became a management instructor in the aviation department at DSU and worked part-time with the Vicksburg Municipal Airport. After that, he took his present job at the Greenville Mid-Delta Airport in 2018.

The other person, other than his wife, Barbara, that he respects most, is his father, Clinton Washington, Jr. He is who Sam aspire to be as a man.

Sam is Pastor of Cornerstone Christian Worship Center in Cleveland, MS, where he not only preaches, but takes care of the property. That combined with home projects does not leave a lot of time for other activities. Although he doesn't get to do a lot of flying, that is his number one hobby.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sam Washington for his dedication to advocacy for airport economic improvements and his selfless service to the Greenville Mid Delta Airport and the Mississippi Delta Region.

#### HONORING DR. ERIKA HENDEL AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

#### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Doctor Erika Hendel as Iowan of the Week. Erika is the co-chair of the Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition, board member of the Des Moines Pride Center, and in their free time manages to work as a veterinarian. June is Pride Month, and the purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally. Erika has been a tireless advocate for the LGBTQ community and truly encapsulates the meaning of Pride Month.

Erika was a founding member and now sits as co-chair of The Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition (IQCC). The Iowa Queer Communities of Color's mission is to use an intersectional lens to address the inequity of services, lack of support and space, socioeconomic disparities, and institutional racism experienced by our communities through education, advocacy, intentional inclusivity, and organizing. Erika has always been involved in LGBTQ advocacy but knew that visibility is important. As Asian American. Erika has lived in Iowa for 5½ years, but it was a difficult transition coming from some of the other diverse places that they have lived. This led Erika to get even more involved in the community and become the co-chair of the IQCC. Erika found that it made the most sense of community with the diversity that they have experienced in the queer organizations in the city. Erika is looking to address the question of how to create a system of support. That is a goal that Erika is looking to work towards in Des Moines through continued advocacy.

Additionally, Erika is a board member of the Des Moines Pride Center, an organization dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their families

as well as our allies in the Greater Des Moines area. They offer a safe environment for community members to visit with a large library and free Wi-Fi. The community center also serves as a meeting place for other non-profit organizations with similar missions. It serves as a hub for information and socialization for the gender and sexual minorities in the community.

Erika is a shining example of tireless advocacy to make our community a better place and embodies what Pride Month is all about and what it means to be an Iowan. I will always fight in Congress to make Iowa a more inclusive and welcoming state right alongside Erika and the countless other advocates in our community. It is my pleasure to name Dr. Erika Hendel as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING CLERK OF COURT  
SUSAN HICKS FOR EXCEPTIONAL  
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Moore County Clerk of Court Susan Hicks for her distinguished career in public service.

Clerk Hicks began her 38-year career as a public servant in Randolph County and began work with the Moore County Clerk of Court's office in 2006. She was later appointed Clerk of Court in 2009 and was elected to the position for the first time in 2010. She would go on to win re-election twice in 2014 and 2018. Over the course of her time in office, Clerk Hicks' leadership succeeded in upholding the Moore County Clerk's Office's historic status as one of the most well-run and effective Clerk's Offices in North Carolina. She oversaw the modernization of office processes to ensure that it will maintain the capacity to keep up with a growing population in Moore County and acclimate to future technological advancements or unforeseen challenges.

Clerk Hicks will retire from her position at the end of the year. Through her expertise and committed leadership, she stands as an example that all in public service should strive to emulate. I know I speak the rest of our community as I express my gratitude for her hard work and wish her well as she enters the next chapter in her life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Clerk of Court Susan Hicks for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.

HONORING LA'CURTIS JAMON  
POWELL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, La'Curtis Jamon Powell.

La'Curtis Jamon Powell was born and raised in Jackson, MS, on January 28, 1997, to the parents of Dorothea Powell and David

White. Powell graduated from Forest Hill High School in 2015, where he participated in various organizations such as Track, Cross Country, DECA, and Student Council. Upon graduating from Forest Hill, Powell received Junior Class Favorite, Mr. Senior, and Most Spirited Senior. After high school Powell immediately enrolled at Thee Jackson State University, where he received a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice and minor in Military Science. Throughout his tenure at Jackson State University, he has been active in many student organizations.

Through his on-campus involvement, Powell was able to cultivate his natural born leadership skills. One of his biggest accomplishments was chartering the Young Democrats freshman year. His involvement in the process to gain active status for the organization led to Powell receiving an internship with the Mississippi Democratic House Party and later becoming a Campaign Coordinator for then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at Jackson State University.

Furthermore, Powell made great strides to improve the well-being of each student at Jackson State on and off campus. He even hosted free ACT workshops for Jackson Public School students. Powell is also Spring 2017 initiate of the Delta Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Powell also served as the 73rd Student Government Association President, while simultaneously serving as the Vice president for the Student Body President Council under The Institution of Higher Learning and The Legal Affairs Director for The National Consortium of all HBCUs Student Government Association Presidents.

Now in his career, Powell works as an American Airlines Flight Attendant, based in Charlotte, NC. He is also a commissioned officer in the United States Army as 1LT Powell. Throughout his military career, 1LT Powell served as the Battalion S-1 OIC and HHC Company Commander for the 365th HHC Combat Sustainment Support Battalion located in Jackson, MS, 2019–2021.

1LT LaCurtis Powell currently lives in Atlanta, GA, where he is currently stationed at Fort Gillem as 3rd Medical Command (Deployment Support) and is the Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Peder Swanson, while simultaneously serving at the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program Manager for the entire division. As the IRT Program Manager, 1LT Powell provides free medical services such as Dental, Behavioral Health, Veterinary, Family Practices, and Optometry to rural areas and low incomes citizens. Powell is also seeking his Masters in Student Affairs at The University of Arkansas Tech, while being a national active member in his fraternity and Alma Mater Thee Jackson State University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing La'Curtis Jamon Powell for his passion for leadership and service to the United States of America.

FAREWELL TO SERGEANT MAJOR  
JEREMY D. BARTON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a superb Soldier and

Army legislative liaison for his tireless commitment to the United States Army, serving our Nation for 31 years, concluding in the Army Legislative Liaison Office. As Sergeant Major Jeremy D. Barton retires from the United States Army, I believe it is fitting to recognize his service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the United States Army and this Chamber.

Sergeant Major Barton's commitment to service enabled him to excel in numerous leadership positions throughout his Army career. Jeremy began his career by enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1992 as a Field Artilleryman. Throughout his amazing career, he led Soldiers at every level from squad leader through battalion command sergeant major, always placing the needs of his Soldiers and their families first. He also completed numerous demanding Army schools, to include Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, and the Pathfinder Course. He distinguished himself as a tactical and technical expert, serving in the most demanding assignments in the Army, to include multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and remote locations in Alaska.

Jeremy's relentless commitment to the Army proved invaluable in providing support to the House of Representatives and our constituents. As both a Defense Fellow in my office and an Army Legislative Liaison, he spent countless hours ensuring our Members were educated on Army combat systems, modernization programs and policy initiatives. He also led multiple Congressional Delegations to various locations around the globe. Jeremy has become a trusted adviser and friend to many of us, distinguishing himself by continuously going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of Congress.

This Chamber will feel Sergeant Major Barton's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Jeremy for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support. This Nation is grateful for his commitment and the personal sacrifices he has made during his time in the Army Legislative Liaison Office and United States Army.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the United States of America, I commend Sergeant Major Jeremy Barton and his family for their dedicated support to our Army, our Soldiers and this Nation. I congratulate him on an extremely successful career, his dedication to service, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JOAN ROBINSON  
CHEEKS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to celebrate the life of Joan Robinson Cheeks, a long-time resident of Detroit, as we mourn her loss.

Joan had a long career serving the public in the City of Detroit's Housing Department. Joan proudly stood up for the values she felt strongly about. It was no surprise that upon retirement, Joan threw herself wholeheartedly into work with local organizations, including the Michigan Democratic Party, whose work focused on issues like voter protection. Joan served as a precinct delegate for many years.

Joan also strongly believed in community service. She spearheaded the Wayne County Annual Senior Citizens Picnic at Hines Park. She was a steadfast volunteer at the Butzel Family Center, assisting for many years with their annual Thanksgiving turkey distribution.

Joan was truly in her element when she was engaging with people. She was always willing to volunteer her time and always with a smile on her face. Her presence will truly be missed.

Please join me in recognizing the many outstanding contributions of Joan Robinson Cheeks to the communities of Michigan's 13th District Strong as we honor her memory.

HONORING REGISTER OF DEEDS  
JUDY MARTIN FOR EXCEP-  
TIONAL SERVICE AND LEADER-  
SHIP

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Moore County Register of Deeds Judy Martin for 33 years of service to Moore County. As the longest-serving county officeholder, Registrar Martin has dedicated her career to her position.

Registrar Martin first began working with the Moore County Register of Deeds in 1989. She served as assistant for the Register of Deeds for ten years prior to being appointed Register of Deeds in 2001. She was then elected to the office in 2002 and has held the position ever since. Registrar Martin's leadership helped the office successfully digitize its system of records to accommodate modernization and improve its function. Additionally, she has brought noteworthy state recognition to Moore County. In 2010, the state association of registrars awarded her the Shining Star Award in recognition of her excellent track record and service to her county and state. She was later recognized as Outstanding Register of Deeds by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. In the same year, she served as president of the North Carolina Register of Deeds and was presented the Eunice Ayers Distinguished Service Award for exceptional service in the position.

Registrar Martin will retire from her position at the end of the year. Through her outstanding service and leadership, she has helped strengthen Moore County's capability to adequately serve its citizens. She will long serve as an exemplary figure in public service, and I know I speak for the rest of our community in wishing her well as she begins the next chapter of her career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Register of Deeds Judy Martin for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.

HONORING DANIEL VASSEL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Vassel.

Daniel Vassel was born and raised in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a town founded in 1887 by former slaves. Mr. Vassel is 50 years old, and a retired County Administrator of Coahoma County. He was the first African American to hold that position in Coahoma County. He is the Owner of the Vassel Consulting Group, LLC. Mr. Vassel's highly effective programs on leadership development, team building, and motivation have received rave reviews from leaders and aspiring leaders in many states. As a certified and accomplished facilitator, Mr. Vassel has shared proven techniques from his many successful years in economic development and public service. He motivates others to not only learn, but to also practice the leadership skills he teaches.

As the featured speaker at hundreds of conferences, leadership seminars, and company meetings over the last 15 years, his customized presentations have provided participants with "best in class" tools to make them better leaders. He has spoken to groups from five to five hundred people and still renders the superior delivery and passion he has become known for. He is also the Owner of Daniel Vassel Photography, LLC., where specializes in wedding, children, engagement, and event photography.

Mr. Vassel is best known as a man of compassion, dedication, wisdom, and insight. He regularly attends and serves at Compel Church in Horn Lake, MS. Mr. Vassel attended and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou. After earning his high school diploma, he enrolled at Alcorn State University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree. Upon graduation from Alcorn State University, he began his professional career with the Mississippi State University Extension Service as a Farm and Family Economic Education Agent, where he conducted educational programs and information on the sources, uses, and interpretation of economic data.

After working for Mississippi State for 10 years, he began working for Delta Council in Stoneville, Mississippi as the Business, and Industry Outreach Coordinator. At Delta Council, he served as a resource and coordinator for development strategies including industrial and business recruitment, business retention programs, Delta informational database, as well as the Delta Project (A partnership between Delta Council and Mississippi State University). He furthered his career later with Tunica County as the Program and Project Coordinator, where he coordinated and assisted with existing and new county projects. Mr. Vassel later served as Special Projects Officer, Assistant County Administrator, and County Administrator of Coahoma County.

He has served on numerous Boards and Committees including the Clarksdale/Coahoma County Industrial Foundation Board of Directors, Chairman; Coahoma County Industrial Foundation Board Marketing Committee, Vice President; Carnegie Public Library Board of Directors; Rho Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Tunica County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors & Education Committee; Robinsonville Rotary Club; Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Past Chairperson; Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Board Member; Clarksdale Municipal Public School District; Leadership Clarksdale Board of Directors, Member

and Past President; Clarksdale Habitat for Humanity; Youth Leadership Clarksdale Board of Directors; Mississippi State University Extension Service Marketing Task Force; Friends of the Carnegie Library Board of Directors, Team Leader; Coahoma Community College Rural Community College Initiative, Founding Member and Past President; Clarksdale Crime Stoppers Board of Directors, Past President; A Proactive Approach for Children; North Delta Community Development Corporation Board of Directors; Coahoma Community College District Workforce Council; and, Northwest Community College District Workforce Council. Mr. Vassel and Tana Lisa Pittman Vassel are the proud parents of Daniel Vassel, Jr. and Alyssa Grace Vassel.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Daniel Vassel for his dedication to serving his community and this great state.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIONEL R.  
BORDEAUX

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Lionel R. Bordeaux, Wakinyan Wanbli, (Thundering Eagle), of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the President of Sinte Gleska University in Mission, South Dakota. President Bordeaux passed away on November 16, 2022 at the age of 82.

President Bordeaux led an amazing life dedicated to the service of his people. He was a pioneer in expanding upper education access for Native Americans through his advocacy and work at Sinte Gleska University, which became the first tribal university in the nation during his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and memory of President Lionel R. Bordeaux, a constant fighter for Indian Country and a great American. I am honored to include in the RECORD this memorial.

LIONEL R. BORDEAUX, WAKINYAN WANBLI, PRESIDENT OF SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY FOR 50 YEARS, DEPARTS FOR SPIRIT WORLD

Lionel R. Bordeaux, Wakinyan Wanbli (Thundering Eagle), an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota and the president of Sinte Gleska University, departed for the spirit world on November 16. This is a tremendous loss for his family, Sinte Gleska University, the Sicangu Lakota Oyate, and Indian Country. For all who knew him, he was a grounding force in stormy times; a paragon of goodwill, solidarity, and wisdom; and the heart and soul of the Tribal College Movement to which he was fiercely devoted.

Lionel R. Bordeaux was born in 1940 and raised by his grandfather, Alex Bordeaux Jr., and his grandmother, Mary Jordan Bordeaux. His mother, Ella, had moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to work and eventually own her own business. Lionel attended the Horse Creek Day School, St. Mary's School in Winner, South Dakota, and a public school in White River, South Dakota. He later attended public schools in Lincoln, Nebraska, returning to the Rosebud reservation where he graduated from St. Francis Indian Mission, a Roman Catholic boarding school.

He went on to enroll at Black Hills State Teachers' College where he earned a BA in composite history and social science, with a minor in psychology. Bordeaux later took classes at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado, and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He eventually transferred to the University of South Dakota where he completed a master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Bordeaux's career included working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as a counselor on the Jicarilla Apache reservation in Dulce, New Mexico, a job he credited with giving him good early career experience. From there he entered the BIA's management training program and relocated to Washington, DC, where he trained in various federal agencies. His experience in DC was later instructive for his role at Sinte Gleska, helping him pursue passage of federal legislation to support tribal colleges and universities. After transferring to Dallas, Texas, Bordeaux learned about the needs of Native people living in cities due to the federal government's relocation program.

Bordeaux relocated to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and taught guidance and culture classes at high schools and grade schools in various communities. In an interview with Tribal College Journal, he shared that his goal was to finish his career as a superintendent in Rosebud and later serve as the BIA area director in Aberdeen, South Dakota. It was while living in Pine Ridge that he completed his master's degree at the University of South Dakota.

Bordeaux continued his graduate studies at the University of Minnesota where he completed his doctorate coursework in educational administration. Before completing his dissertation, Stanley Red Bird Sr., founder of Sinte Gleska College, approached Bordeaux and told him traditional healers had held spiritual ceremonies and directed Red Bird to seek out the graduate student, who knew the tribal language and history of the Sicangu Lakota people, and request that Bordeaux withdraw from his doctoral studies and return to the Rosebud reservation to serve as president of Sinte Gleska College. Bordeaux consulted with his wife Barbara, who told him that if that was their calling, they must follow it. Shortly thereafter, Bordeaux and his family returned home where on February 3, 1973, 12 Lakota medicine men inaugurated him as president of the college, a position he held ever since. President Bordeaux's career, and indeed his passion, for the next 50 years was focused on culturally based Native higher education and serving his community, making him the longest serving college or university president in the United States. Known as the "Dean of the Tribal College Movement," President Bordeaux oversaw the expansion and development of Sinte Gleska College into the first tribal university. Throughout his career there, he worked to strengthen Lakota culture and language. He also forcefully advocated locally, regionally, and nationally for Native peoples' educational sovereignty over curriculum and a tribally based accreditation body rooted in spirituality and traditional laws. Family, kinship, spirituality, and culture were the driving forces in everything he did. President Bordeaux credited the spirituality, prayer, and ceremony of the medicine men for the success of Sinte Gleska University and his long-term presidency.

In addition to his role as a tribal university president, Bordeaux had a long-established history in the tribal college movement. He was a founder of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), which serves as the voice of the 35 tribal colleges and universities in Washington, DC. He was also a founder of the American Indian

College Fund, the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium, and Tribal College Journal.

President Bordeaux also served in leadership roles as a councilman in the Rosebud Sioux tribal government for 14 years; chair of the tribal education committee and education board; board member of the South Dakota State Education and Planning Commission; board member of the Native American Rights Fund; board member of the Phelps Stokes Fund; regent of the Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kansas; and president of both AIHEC and the National Indian Education Association.

Bordeaux received presidential appointments to serve on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education and the Advisory Board of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities. He co-chaired the historic White House Conference on Indian Education.

President Bordeaux is and was among the most honored Native American educators in the United States. His generosity went beyond the borders of the Rosebud reservation by providing support to relatives on other Lakota and Dakota reservations. This included assisting tribes like Lower Brule and Ihanktonwan in achieving their dreams of having a tribal college.

Among the many honors President Bordeaux received include Outstanding Administrator of the Year (Black Hills State College in affiliation status with Sinte Gleska College), Outstanding Educator of the Year (South Dakota Indian Education Association), Tribal Government award (the National Congress of American Indians), Outstanding Indian Educator of the Year (National Indian Education Association), American Indian Distinguished Achievement Award (American Indian Resource Institute), Human and Civil Rights Award (South Dakota Education Association/National Education Association), First Lifetime Achievement Award (National Indian Education Association), and two Living Legend Awards (National American Indian Enterprise Development and the National Indian Gaming Association).

President Bordeaux earned the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of South Dakota and was named as one of the top 25 graduates in the history of Black Hills State University in South Dakota. He received two honorary doctorate degrees, one from South Dakota State University and another from Augustana University in South Dakota. The tribal holiday "Lionel R. Bordeaux Day" was named in his honor on the Rosebud reservation, and he was inducted into the South Dakota State Hall of Fame. In July of 2017, President Bordeaux spoke at the World's Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Toronto, Canada, where he was presented with an honorary doctorate degree by the World's Indigenous Nations University in Hawaii. In October of 2017, his alma mater, Black Hills State University, named a residence hall on its campus the "Lionel R. Bordeaux Residence Hall" in honor of his many lifetime achievements. In 2018, Bordeaux was also among the inaugural inductees into the Native American Hall of Fame for his educational leadership. The state of South Dakota issued an executive proclamation from the Office of the Governor, Dennis Daugaard, proclaiming February 9, 2018, as Lionel R. Bordeaux Day. Carrie Billy, president and CEO of AIHEC, said, "President Bordeaux was the heart—the drumbeat—of the Tribal College Movement. We feel his loss profoundly, but his songs and stories will never leave us. His legacy will endure for generations and that gives us peace and hope for the future of the Tribal College Movement. Please say a pray-

er for President Bordeaux's wife, Barbara, his children, grandchildren, and the students, faculty, and staff at the college he loved so profoundly Sinte Gleska University. I pray that the Holy Ones watch over all of us."

Many people who worked with President Bordeaux throughout his career have shared their messages of congratulations and gratitude for his service over the years, illustrating his legacy. Dr. Justin Guillory, president of Northwest Indian College wrote on his 45th anniversary, "The TCU movement is alive and growing stronger because of warriors like you who paved the way for us."

John Forkenbrock, who first met President Bordeaux when Forkenbrock served on the staff of the House Labor and Education Committee under the leadership of Representative Michael Blouin of Iowa, wrote, "Your role in the passage of the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act was instrumental. If not for your continued optimism and your continued efforts at keeping the House committee's efforts moving forward, I know without hesitation that this legislation would not have crossed the finish line."

President Bordeaux said in a 2012 interview with Tribal College Journal, "I see tribal colleges and universities standing alone, as other institutions do not have the same calling or vision to strengthen tribal nations as we do. We are undoing the damage that was previously done and rebuilding nationhood according to tribal prophecy and the dictates of the four directions, *aho! Waste' yelo!*"

In addition to President Bordeaux's remarkable legacy as an educator and activist for Native higher education, his legacy is no less strong in the loving and devoted family he created, including his wife, Barbara, who survives him, his daughter, Debra, and sons, Shawn and Brian, all of the Rosebud reservation, along with 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved son Scott, his brother Lynwood Fallis, his daughter-in-law Jodie, and granddaughter Jordan.

A celebration of life is being held at the Wakinyan Wanbli Multipurpose Student Center on December 1, 2022, at 10:00 AM located on the Sinte Gleska University Lake Campus. For more details, please visit the Sinte Gleska University website at <https://www.sintegleska.edu/>. President Bordeaux's services will be live streamed with the link accessible on the university's website.

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN SZOKA FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 2, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina State Representative John Szoka for 10 years of service to the people of Cumberland County. A beloved member of our community, he has set an exemplary standard for others in public service to emulate.

Since 2013, Representative Szoka has worked diligently to represent District 45 in the North Carolina General Assembly. He holds leadership positions on many different committees, including his roles as Senior Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Perhaps most impressively, Representative Szoka currently serves as Conference Chair for the

North Carolina Republican House Caucus. Among many other legislative accomplishments, his initiatives in office secured around \$400 million in the state budget for Cumberland County.

Prior to his career in public service, Representative Szoka graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry where he served as an Infantry Officer for over 20 years before retiring from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1996. In retirement, he became a successful small business owner and is currently still employed as a mortgage lender.

Representative Szoka's legislative term will expire at the end of the year. Through his outstanding service and leadership in the military and the North Carolina House of Representatives, he has exhibited the highest level of commitment to serving others. I know I speak for all in our community in wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Representative John Szoka for his career of commendable servitude to his community.

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#### HONORING MARSEY RANDALL

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero, Marsey Randall. Randall has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success. Marsey Randall, a Jackson, MS, native, came from a military family. She was reared up in Pearl, MS, and was a member of the very first Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) class at Pearl High School in 1986.

Randall joined the Navy in 1990 and remained on active duty for four years. Her first duty station was in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, serving in the Signalman rating, which later merged with Quartermaster, and ultimately to Boatswain's Mate. She served as a deck seaman on tugboats escorting ships in and out of port, and ferrying passengers, including distinguished visitors (VIPs). She then transferred to USNS Guadalupe (TAO 200), a West Coast underway replenishment oiler, and served out her enlistment there.

Seven years after her enlistment ended, she joined the Naval Reserves in October 2001, and was attached to the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Meridian and would often drill in Gulfport. Very interesting timing for sure. That was just a month after September 11, 2001. She was assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group and then on extended deployment to the middle east. She spent the better part of three years (2006–2008) at Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base and U.S. Army Installation Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, which accommodates elements of the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, in addition to military personnel from the United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, Australia, and Canada. Randall received predeployment training at Naval Base Norfolk in Norfolk, VA, and at Fort Eustis in Newport News, VA.

Randall and other Battalion staff were trained in the use of weapons, driving tactical vehicles, first aid, small unit tactics, hand-to-hand combat, and the procedures and standards required of items and personnel re-entering the United States from overseas. That training earned her a certification as a Customs Border Clearance Agent.

When not deployed, Randall continued her formal education and earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and family planning in 2011 from Jackson State University. Even while she was in the Reserves, she continued educating young people. She began a twenty-year teaching career in California and completed it back in Mississippi. She also served as an independent contractor assisting elderly people with transportation and health needs.

Around that time, she began to think seriously about starting her own business. When the pandemic hit, the idea to open a Rage Room made perfect sense because it was needed—so much frustration and anguish, so many people needed to vent. Whether from unresolved anger, depression, anxiety, grief, or trauma, the Rage Room has become an outlet to express such pain by breaking objects in a room.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marsey Randall for her service in the U.S. Navy and for being an exemplary citizen in the state of Mississippi.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GLENN BLODGETT

#### HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Glenn Blodgett of Guthrie, Texas. Affectionately known as "Doc Blodgett," Dr. Blodgett was a skilled horseman and veterinarian whose passion for horses motivated him through an extensive career in the equine industry.

Dr. Blodgett began working at the Burnett Ranches, which included the legendary Four Sixes Ranch, in 1982, and continued to work until he passed away in November of 2022. Dr. Blodgett served as the ranch veterinarian and manager of the horse division for the Four Sixes Ranch for 40 years while also serving on the board of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. As the head of the horse division at the Four Sixes, Dr. Blodgett made the ranch an industry leader in equine embryo transfer and artificial insemination by consistently producing and developing some of the most highly recognized racing and western performance American Quarter Horses in the world. He dedicated his career and life to the betterment of horses and constantly sought to improve the practice of equine medicine.

Born in Spearman, Texas and raised in the Panhandle, Dr. Blodgett discovered his passion for equine medicine early in life which led him to complete his undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University and his veterinary degree at Texas A&M University. He continued his educational advocacy and support of the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine while mentoring young people and helping foster their passion for horses and veterinary careers.

Dr. Blodgett's years of service are reflected by his numerous positions and collected accolades. To name a few, Dr. Blodgett was appointed to the first Texas Horse Racing Commission in 1988; was named the Texas Veterinary Medical Association's equine practitioner of the year in 1990; became director of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) in 1991; served as a vice chairman for the Texas Horse Racing Commission from 1993 to 1995; became director-at-large of the AQHA in 2011; became the 65th President of the AQHA in 2015; and was the recipient of the 2017 National Golden Spur Award which is the most prestigious honor given to a member of the livestock and ranching industries. Dr. Blodgett was also inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2019 and the AQHA Hall of Fame in 2021.

Aside from his steadfast involvement in Texas racing, Dr. Blodgett was instrumental in the passing of parimutuel horse racing and pushed other legislative efforts which will be felt by the racing industry for generations to come. Dr. Blodgett was an industry leader and trailblazer; leaving some very large boots to fill. As his daughter described, Dr. Blodgett was "quiet, gentle, and patient" and "had a special love for all animals and had a way of communicating with them like no other."

Dr. Blodgett was laid to rest in Guthrie, Texas on November 26, 2022, surrounded by family and cherished friends. He will be truly missed by those who knew him and by the community he truly affected. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Karen, their daughters, Buffie (Michael) and Brandie (Mike), and their five grandchildren, Catherine, Rebecca, Claire, Myla, and Maddox. A mentor and friend to many, I join his family, friends, and the people of the Panhandle in celebrating Dr. Blodgett's life and legacy.

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#### HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER JERRY DAEKE FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Daeke for 8 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to his role as a County Commissioner, Commissioner Daeke served in the Navy and spent 8 years as a town councilman in Southern Pines, North Carolina. He became Moore County's first independent fee appraiser for real estate in 1974 and served as an instructor in his field at Sandhills Community College. He currently chairs the Moore County Tax Equalization and Review Board and has been a member of this board for the past 16 years. Elected to hold Moore County's District V seat as a member of the Board of Commissioners in 2014 and 2018, Commissioner Daeke has been an essential source of property and real estate knowledge for his fellow commissioners. He also currently serves as a member of the Facilities Task Force Committee, the Transportation Advisory Board, and the Utilities Task Force among many other local leadership councils.



Commissioner Daeke will retire from his seat at the end of this year. Through his extensive track record in public service and diligent work as a member of the Board of Commissioners, he has extended the highest level of personal sacrifice in dedicating himself to the service of others. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking him for his efforts and wishing him well as he enters the next chapter of his life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Jerry Daeke for his career of exemplary servitude to his community.

#### HONORING ANTOINETTE GANT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the first female promoted to Brigadier General (BG) in the United States Army, Colonel Antoinette 'Toni' Gant.

Antoinette Gant is the first African American female to serve as a division commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will be the first AA Female (active duty) to reach the rank of Brigadier General in the history of the Engineer Regiment.

Gant was pinned on October 28, 2022. She is the fourth female HBCU graduate to achieve Brigadier General rank. Colonel Gant became the Commander and Division Engineer of South Pacific Division (SPD), U.S. Army Corps Engineers on July 9, 2021. In this position, she was responsible for leading a workforce of more than 2,500 military and civilians, overseeing hundreds of water resource development, military, and interagency design and construction projects valued at more than \$16 billion in support of our communities, our Nation, and our warfighters.

Gant, a native of Port Gibson, Mississippi, graduated from Prairie View A&M University in Texas as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a commission in the Engineer Regiment. She holds a Master of Science in Engineer Management from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri, and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Extension School, National Defense University, in Washington, D.C. She is a certified Project Management Professional. She has served in a variety of command and staff positions for engineering units stateside and abroad. She is a mother of two and married to Leonard Gant, who is a Middle School Math Educator.

A strong advocate for STEM, Gant has worked to develop partnerships with agencies and organizations to promote science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives. She has received several national and community awards, some including: 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Conference Awards (BEYA) Army Stars and Strips Award recipient, the 2020 Women of Color Career Achievement in Government Award, the YWCA Women on the Move Award and many more.

Gant is an initiate of the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at PVAMU. Her military awards and decorations

include many, the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (7) and many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Antoinette Gant as the first African American female to serve as a Division Commander in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### RECOGNIZING COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREG TOMPKINS

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins. On December 31, 2022, Mr. Tompkins will retire from public service, marking the end of a long, impactful career devoted to the people and community of Walla Walla County.

Greg has long been an inspiring leader whom I have had the honor to work with for many years. He first earned the people's trust when he was elected to serve as a county commissioner in January 2003. From day one, Greg worked hard to deliver results for the people who call Walla Walla County home, which earned him the support to serve two more terms before retiring—for the first time—in 2014.

Just four short years later, Greg answered the call to serve—again—following the unexpected passing of his friend and colleague on the county commission, Jim Duncan. He served the remainder of this term as passionately as he did his first three, before seeking re-election to a final term that will come to a close at the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I have met few people more dedicated to serving Walla Walla County and Eastern Washington than Greg Tompkins. For 16 years, he proved himself to be someone our community could count on. His work on numerous local and state government committees have yielded incredible results on issues related to housing, emergency services, behavioral health, and many other important challenges residents face. Greg is the embodiment of a public servant whose mission was to leave a lasting impression on the world—a mission our community would proudly say he accomplished.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Greg Tompkins for his many years of service to the government and people of Walla Walla County. Together, let us celebrate his faithful service to Eastern Washington and the United States of America by congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

#### ENDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

#### HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of those struggling with the disease of addiction.

The last few years have been brutal on Americans suffering from opioid use disorder.

100,000 dead of drug overdoses in 12 months.

This relentless disease has left heartbroken families across the country asking why there isn't more support for loved ones gripped by addiction.

Today, Leigh Ann Caldwell at the Washington Post reported that a cartel of clinics is trying to block legislation that would help address the opioid epidemic. Her article quotes a special interest leader saying he "doesn't trust doctors."

77 million Americans lack easy access to a clinic, but he doesn't want patients to get treatment because he doesn't "trust" doctors? Maybe he wants to protect the monopoly these for-profit clinics enjoy.

It is time for us to decide what is more important: Ending the opioid epidemic or the entrenched interests of the methadone clinic cartel.

It is time for the Senate to help us get the bipartisan Opioid Treatment Access Act over the finish line.

#### HONORING COUNTY COMMISSIONER CATHERINE GRAHAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Catherine Graham for 8 years of service as Moore County Commissioner and a lifetime of public service to our community.

Prior to being elected to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Graham served as the Clerk of Superior Court for 15 years. Her success in this position allowed her to be elected President of the North Carolina Clerk of Courts. She later served as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Carthage and a member of the Board of Trustees for Sandhills Community College. In 2014, Commissioner Graham was elected to hold Moore County's District I seat as a member of the Board of Commissioners. She is only the fourth woman to ever serve on the board, and in perhaps her most noteworthy achievement, she became the first female elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in 2016. She was reelected to the board in 2018 and currently serves on the Social Services Board and the Sandhills Center Board of Directors in addition to many other local leadership councils.

Commissioner Graham will retire from her current position as Vice Chair of the Moore County Board of Commissioners at the end of the year. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to her community. Through her hard work and leadership, she has served as a trailblazer for all women in public service. I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor her extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Catherine Graham for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.

HONORING SERGEANT ANTHONY  
BELL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 2, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated veteran, Sergeant Anthony Bell.

Sgt. Bell served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades, including 3 years with the Third Brigade 101st Airborne, more famously known as the Screaming Eagles. Around

2010, Sgt. Bell served a tour in Afghanistan and started to ponder what his post-active-duty life would be like. His upbringing and exposure to diverse cultures during his military life brought him full circle. Although Sgt. Bell had a great job offer when he left the military, as a GS-13, he wanted to pay it forward by helping a failing education system.

With this mindset, Sgt. Bell built a high school military education program in Columbus, GA, then later became the military instructor on the campus at the University of Mississippi. More recently, Sgt. Bell has been serving in a similar capacity in Sunflower County for the past 4 years. His classroom in-

struction serves as both a complement and enhancement to the traditional curriculum. Part of taking the military instruction elective also delves into a student's physical readiness.

Sgt. Bell's last point of emphasis among his students is to change the perception about what the military is. When students first enter the class the typical concept about the military revolves around going to war. But this instructor's life path has shown that the military is a great career starter.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sgt. Anthony Bell for his passion for leadership and service to the United States of America.